

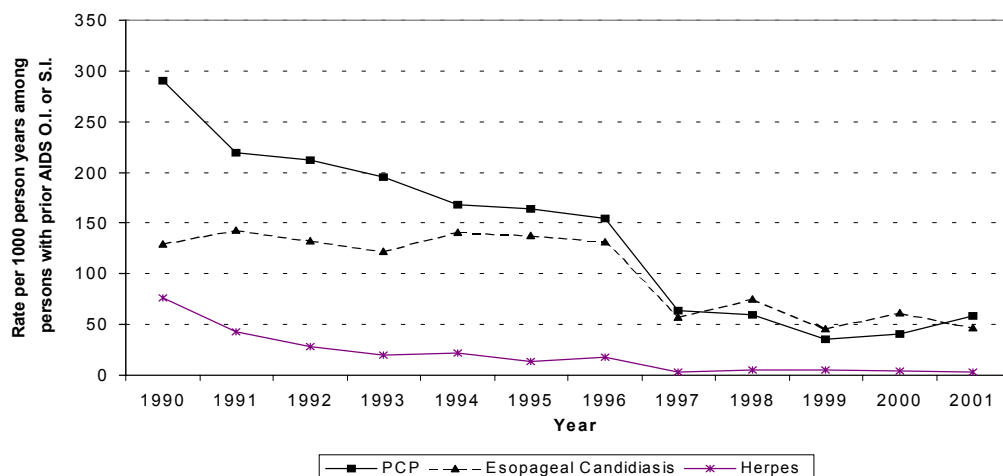


AIDS-related Opportunistic Illnesses

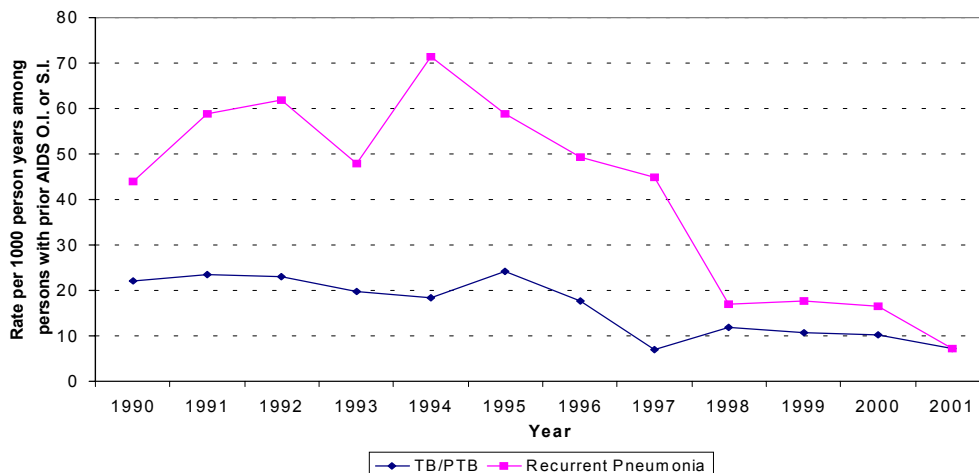
BACKGROUND: People with HIV infection have a high risk for a wide range of illnesses due HIV risk factors and HIV itself. Among the most severe illnesses are the 26 AIDS-defining opportunistic illnesses (OIs) that occur as a result of HIV disease progression, and generally occur only after substantial damage to the immune system. OIs have markedly declined (locally and nationally) in incidence since the availability of highly effective antiretroviral therapy (HAART). The occurrence of an OI reflects multiple stages of prevention failure--from failure to prevent HIV infection through failure of providing adequate HAART therapy to prevent further disease progression. Some OIs occur more frequently in men who have sex with men (MSM) and others among injection drug users (IDUs).

EPISODIC OPPORTUNISTIC ILLNESSES

- Below is a graph plotting steep declines in PCP (*pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia) and esophageal candidiasis since the advent of HAART in 1996. PCP is frequently the initial AIDS-defining event, it is also sometimes an HIV-defining event among persons with late diagnoses of HIV. Esophageal candidiasis is an important OI in women and IDUs. The decline in chronic herpes simplex infection is more modest than the other OIs.

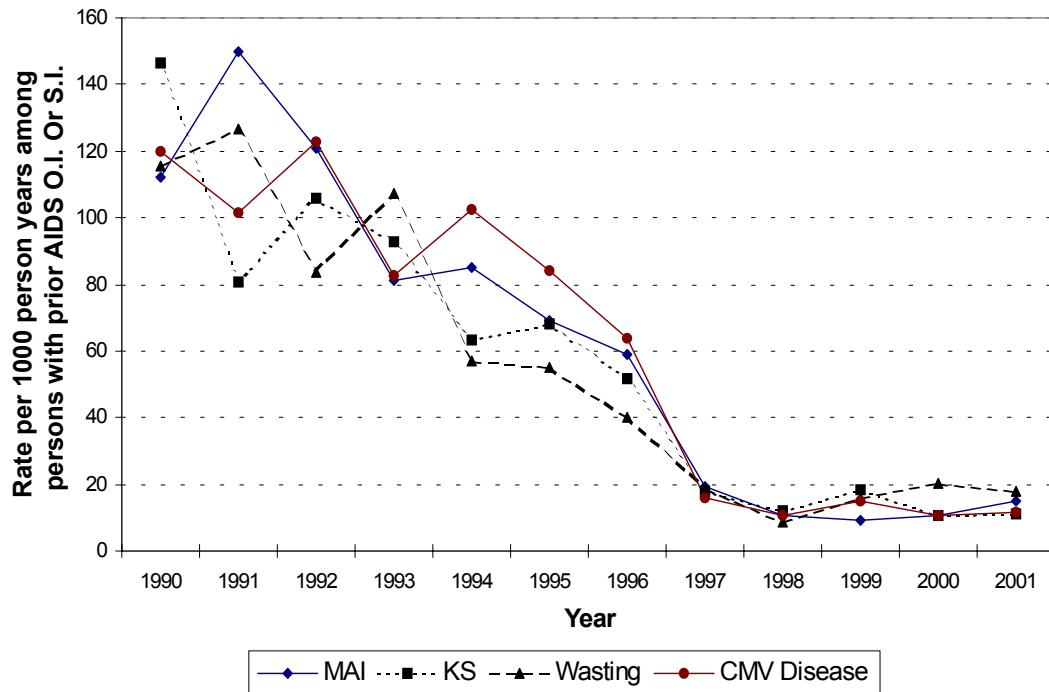


- The following graph shows striking declines in TB (tuberculosis--both pulmonary and extrapulmonary, such as miliary or peritoneal) and recurrent pneumonia. Both of these episodic OIs are more common in IDUs than in MSM.



CHRONIC OPPORTUNISTIC ILLNESSES

- In the graph below, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC), Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), HIV wasting syndrome, and CMV disease (including CMV retinitis) rates are all seen falling sharply starting in 1996. KS is more common among MSM than other HIV-infected persons. MAC typically only occurs in the most immunocompromised persons, at very late-stage AIDS.



- Further declines in the incidence of 5 more OIs are illustrated in the graph below. Of these, HIV dementia or encephalopathy was and remains most prevalent.

